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DC Bag Tax Raises Over \$2 Million in Revenue Since Implementation

Some money used on litter traps in Anacostia River

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WASHINGTON - If you shop in D.C., you know it will cost you a nickel if you need a bag. The Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Act was implemented at the beginning of 2010. Officials say since then, the program

has raised over \$2 million in revenue from the bag charge.

This week, the D.C. Department of the Environment released the first round of grant awards from the revenue generated by the bag charge.

Some of the money has already been put to use. Dennis Chestnut with Groundwork DC took FOX 5 on a site visit to show us how trash is already being collected from a stream that flows directly into the Anacostia River.

Chestnut showed off a bandalong water trap. The trap collects hundreds of pounds of trash from the stream each week before it can flow into the river. The plan is to use funds from the bag tax to help pay for two additional bandalongs. The cost for each trap is estimated at \$150,000.

Chestnut says that since the program began, he has noticed a decline in the number of plastic bags he removed from the river. He says bottles and Styrofoam products litter the river the most. He is eager to hire new employees to clean the river full time once the funding from the bag revenue makes it to his organization.

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